



# STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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68509

## State Rehabilitation Council Meeting Nebraska VR Office 3901 N 27<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE August 14, 2018

### Draft Meeting Minutes

*Public notice of upcoming meetings will be available on the Department of Education website under "Master Calendar" at least 5 days prior to each meeting.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jerry Bryan, Michael Bursaw, Jody Faltys (substitute for Michael Reed), Lindy Foley, Gayle Hahn, Vicki Newman, Tobias Orr, Diane Owen-Downs, Sandy Peterson, Kipp Ransom, David Scott, Alice Senseney, Adriana Springer, Camie West

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Crystal Booker, Chris Gaspari, Lisa Kent, John McNally, Jonathan Moeller, JD Simmons, Cassidy Wall, Carly Weyers

**VR STAFF PRESENT:** Angela Fujan, Sandy Hamm, Ashley Hernandez, Mary Matusiak

*The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 10:10a.m. public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No public comment was given.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

David Scott moved and Camie West seconded the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

### **APPROVAL OF MAY 8, 2018 MINUTES**

David Scott moved and Sandy Peterson seconded a motion to approve the May 8, 2018 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

### **SRC NEW MEMBERS**

Kipp Ransom welcomed new members and introduced Alice Senseney from the Nebraska Department of Education. Adriana Springer introduced herself and summarized her work with VR and the Omaha Tribal Community. Jody Faltys shared she is here as a substitute for Michael Reed

from SILC as he has resigned from the SRC. Jody shared a new SILC representative will join the council permanently next meeting. Council members introduced themselves to new members. Kipp reported that Vicki Newman and Carly Weyers will be completing their first terms on the council and will be serving a second term.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Kipp Ransom shared that he is completing his second term on the council and will be terming out after this meeting. Kipp shared with the council his experience and history with VR and serving on the SRC. Kipp reported a new council chair, vice chair and executive committee need to be elected.

Kipp Ransom nominated David Scott as chair. David accepted the nomination.

Sandy Peterson was nominated as vice-chair and accepted the nomination.

Diane Owens-Down was nominated as a member of the executive committee and accepted.

Gayle Hahn moved and Michael Bursaw seconded the motion to approve the election of the new officers as proposed. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

### **FOLLOW UP OF LAST MEETINGS ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Senator Outreach**

David Scott and Sandy Hamm reported room 1510 at the State Capitol is reserved on February 12, 2018 from 7:30-10:30am to hold the senator outreach event. Sandy stated no food or drink are permitted in State Capitol rooms at this time due to renovations. David stated that Senators and their aides will be attracted by and offered great information sharing. David stated senators and aides will be invited to attend from approximately 8:00-9:30. Angela Fujan reported that following the outreach event the SRC meeting will be held across the street at the State Office Building. Angela shared the role of council members during the event will be to share their experience with the SRC and VR. David stated the main goal is to leave a positive impact with senators on how VR is a benefit on the state economy. Kipp Ransom stated how beneficial it will be to have council members attend the event. David shared they would like as many council members to attend as possible. Angela shared that there will be talking points and handouts provided to council members to assist with information sharing. Council members Michael Bursaw, David Scott, Angela Fujan, Vicki Newman and Adriana Springer stated they will attend the outreach event. Sandy Hamm stated she will inquire with her contact at the Capitol to see when they will open up the schedule to book a food room in 2020. David and Kipp discussed the idea of an upgrade to the informational handout used at the outreach event to possibly include legislative bills. David added that following the event the informational handouts will be provided through the capitol mail system to each senator's office. Sandy Peterson stated it will also be important for council members to personally invite their own representatives to the event. Sandy Hamm stated an invitation script will be provided at the next meeting for members to use for invitations as well as the constant contact email system will continue to be used to invite and provide outreach to the senators and their aides. Angela thanked all those who worked on setting up this event in advance.

#### **Disability Employment and Inclusion Awards**

Mary Matusiak reported the Employment Committee met last month and reviewed the nominations for the Disability Employment and Inclusion Awards and selected the award winners in all four recipient categories. Mary reported the entrepreneur award presented to a VR services recipient is Toby Mickelson with Old West Radon based out of Kearney, NE. The small business recognition will be awarded to Columbus Care Rehabilitation Services. The large business recognition will be awarded to West Pharmaceutical Services out of Kearney, NE. The Individual Champion award will

be received by Dr. John J. Curran out of Norfolk, NE. These awards will be presented October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in room 1510 (8:30-3:30) at the State Capitol, The Governor and Commissioner have been invited and media will also be invited. The SRC meeting will be held in room 1510 at the Capitol as well so members do not have to move back and forth as the awards time has not yet been set pending the Governor's schedule. Lindy Foley expressed her thanks to the employment committee for their work on the awards.

### **SRC Annual Report**

Sandy Hamm reported there will be some changes to the format of the annual report from past years with changes from WIOA as well as refining, editing and reframing. Sandy shared the report will be completed by the end of December and the most current data from this report will be available for members to utilize at the February Outreach event. Sandy reminded subcommittee chairs that their year-end summary reports will be due to her in October as well as a summary from Kipp Ransom, the SRC chair. Lindy Foley stated that past annual reports are available for review on the SRC website.

### **MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR**

Kipp Ransom asked council members if any feedback was brought to council members. No member feedback was shared.

### **CAP REPORT**

Jerry Bryan provided members with a written report outlining CAP cases from April through June 2018. Jerry summarized and discussed the three cases in the report. Jerry shared the case of a client whom had initiated termination with VR. Jerry shared that VR had provided appropriate services, but barriers of transportation and commitment were inhibiting success. Jerry reported the individual's case was closed and the client can re-apply for services in the future. David Scott asked if the expectations and responsibilities of the client are made clear to clients when they apply. Jerry explained that yes, clients are provided guidelines by the transportation company as this particular client missed the van transportation three times. Jerry shared that they have been updating the VR application wording so counselors and clients more clearly understand the partnership and expectations of services in mutual agreement. Jerry reported the second CAP case involved VR and Easter Seals AgrAbility. Jerry shared in this case challenges occurred with order of selection and the closing of priority group one placed him on a waiting list. Jerry shared this case was unfortunately due to bad timing and a lack of funding but this client is willing and understanding to remain on the waiting list. David Scott inquired what plan is in place to stay in contact and follow up with individuals on the wait list. Lindy Foley shared that VR does provide information and referrals to individuals before they are put on a waitlist. Lindy shared they have been discussing creating a strategy for those individuals in priority groups 2 and 3 who maybe on a waitlist for quite some time versus those in priority group 1 who will hopefully be served soon. Jerry summarized the third CAP case which involved a client's parent whom had received a letter informing them the individual had been placed on a VR waitlist. Jerry explained he researched the background of this case and a communication issue was the barrier with the individual changing their mind in regards to which services they are interested in. Jerry concluded the client decided to reapply for VR services and remain on the waitlist.

### **MEMBER FEEDBACK ON WRITTEN REPORTS**

Members were provided with written reports from the Ombudsperson, ATP, NYLC, SILC and CAP. David Scott asked in regards to the NYLC report how many individuals were served with the summer leadership council and if the fees were typical. Lindy Foley shared the council can follow-

up with the NYLC director, Michael Hruska, as a NYLC member was not present at today's meeting. David asked in regards to the ATP report if another *Lose It and Reuse It* event will be held due to the success report. Tobias Orr shared they are looking into doing another event due to the first being very successful, stating the date is currently being set. David inquired about follow-up survey utilization with ATP clients. Tobias shared that currently follow-up surveys are not being utilized to their fullest potential, but they are working on creating a survey with measurable outcomes. Vicki Newman asked in regards to client satisfaction surveys if that data can be utilized in internet searches such as, Google ratings and social media feedback/ratings. Tobias shared ATP does a good job following up with clients and will investigate further including that feedback with Google and Facebook. No additional feedback was provided by council members.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Angela Fujan summarized the three subcommittees' work for new members in attendance. Members broke into committees.

### **Employer Services**

Mary Matusiak reported the committee discussed the Disability Employment and Inclusion Awards. Mary shared that each award category may not be awarded annually, and noted they are considering adding an employment partner award next year. Members discussed that alumni award winners were selected in past years. Mary shared that multiple award categories can be presented each year but not all need be awarded each year dependent on nominations. Mary shared the annual job fair, held this past year in Omaha, was very successful with 365 student participants. Mary reported this year the job fair will be held in Lincoln, and they are looking into a larger venue to hold the fair due to increasing participation creating a need for more space. Mary shared they are working to secure the Lancaster Event Center for potentially a Tuesday at the end of April. Lindy Foley stated the SRC is always looking for recommendations and recruitment of additional business representatives for council membership from the Employer Services Committee.

### **Transition Services**

Sandy Peterson reported the committee discussed current progress and challenges in transition services. Alice Senseney shared NDE has been collaborating with PTI and Nebraska VR a lot over the summer. Alice shared NDE will be focusing on how to improve transition assessment. Alice reported a leadership team will be providing transition assessment training throughout the state. Alice reported a new informational document for transition planning has been developed and will hopefully be available soon on the NDE website. Alice reported a new staff member was hired to coordinate statewide IEP trainings and is including transition components into these trainings for secondary students. Sandy Peterson shared there remain concerns with staff movement in school districts causing school staff filling transition roles not having the resources and education to understand and fully utilize transition services for their students. Sandy shared this makes committee members very concerned that there are many individuals in schools who do not know the resources and information needed for transition planning. Members discussed VR transition services outreach and training. Sandy shared the committee discussed the idea of creating a flow chart that could be utilized with schools for transition services including VR and DD services.

### **Client Services**

Gayle Hahn reported the committee reviewed the client satisfaction survey results. Gayle shared the information was very positive and beneficial. The committee questioned the end results from some clients' feedback and wanted to know if these concerns were followed up on by counselors. Gayle shared they will follow up with those conducting the surveys to verify if these results are being

followed up on by counselors. Lindy Foley shared this survey process is still new and they are working on improving follow-up reporting as well as recognizing individuals who have done great work.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Lindy Foley delivered the VR Director's Report. Lindy began the Director's Report discussing WIOA requirements for VR to collaborate with schools to deliver Pre-Employment Transition Services. Members discussed in small groups current understandings of Pre-Employment Transitions Services in the state. Members highlighted Pre-Employment Services including: interviewing skills, Project Search and job fairs. Lindy discussed how all these services fit into the 15% requirement for transition services and more. Lindy reported VR and other workforce partners are collaborating to build an electronic common intake system called, *Common Intake*. Lindy shared this system will make the intake process more efficient and customer focused. Members discussed in small groups the benefits of a common intake system as well as any potential challenges. Council members discussed benefits of a common intake system including: the elimination of duplication of services and the creation of a more user-friendly process for clients. Challenges discussed included: creation of the necessary technology, training of those completing the intake and correctly determining eligibility of clients, and developing a consistent understanding of disability. Members discussed questions can often be too broad and having examples may assist in creating clarity for clients utilizing the intake application. Lindy shared more information on the common intake will continue to be brought to the council as the work begins. Lindy reported the Career Pathways Advancement Project has been very successful. Lindy summarized that The Pathways Project involves following up with former VR clients and providing additional training and advancement in their field. Lindy reported Nebraska was awarded a TBI Mentor Grant. Lindy shared that for both the Pathways Grant and TBI Mentor Grant, Nebraska VR has partnered with other states to advance this work. Lindy updated the council that Nebraska VR has been implementing an order of selection since December 2017. Lindy reported that Nebraska chose to offer retention services while under the order of selection. Lindy reported all three priority groups are still currently closed with 1,789 individuals currently on the waitlist and that is anticipated to continue to increase. Lindy stated of those on the waitlist 1,100 are currently in priority group one. Lindy reported VR is applying for re-allotment funds with RSA and is hopeful funds will be distributed by RSA in the near future. Lindy shared Nebraska is one of approximately ten states with all priority groups closed within order of selection. Lindy stated the decision was made in December to include retention services while under order of selection. Lindy discussed retention services means VR can offer services to individuals who are in risk of losing their current employment. Lindy shared that retention services does offer the challenge of service outside the priority groups and creates difficulty anticipating budgetary needs for retention. Lindy shared these unknowns in regards to retention services are challenging and asked council members for their feedback. Members discussed positives and negatives of retention services and its budgetary impact. Lindy reported there has been refinement in policy as to what constitutes retention and what is immediate risk of losing employment. Lindy concluded the Director's Report by recognizing Kipp Ransom for his exemplary service to the SRC.

## **NEXT MEETING**

October 9, 2018 – State Capitol, Room 1510

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Senator Outreach Informational Handout Updates & Invitation Templates – Sandy Hamm, Angela Fujan
- Year-End Summaries for SRC Annual Report – committee chairs, Kipp Ransom, Sandy Hamm
- NYLC report clarification – Michael Hruska/Angela Fujan
- Verification of Client Satisfaction Survey feedback receiving counselor follow-up – Client Services Committee